

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02606 071538Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /024 W
-----129884 071539Z /53

O R 071500Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1219

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2606

FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: PANAMA CANAL

REF: USIA 24491

1. SEPTEMBER 7 TRINIDAD GUARDIAN USED REUTER-CANA FOR COVERAGE PANAMA CANAL TREATY.
PAPER PLAYED SEVEN-INCH STORY PAGE 2 UNDER HED "CARTER STARTS PANAMA CANAL EXTRAVAGANZA".
ARTICLE LEAD WITH STATEMENT "PRESIDENT CARTER TODAY BEGAN FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS IN A SHOW OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY AIMED AT OVERCOMING RESISTANCE IN THE U.S. SENATE TO THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY." AFTER ROUTINE PLAY OF UPCOMING SCHEDULE, ARTICLE SAID CEREMONIES "ARE ALSO AN EXTRAVAGANZA STAGED TO HELP PRESIDENT CARTER TO INFLUENCE POWERFUL OPPONENTS OF THE NEW TREATIES." ARTICLE CONCLUDED "THE PRESIDENT'S ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE NEW TREATIES ARE THAT RATIFICATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT U.S. SECURITY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY."

2. SAME EDITION GUARDIAN CARRIED LONGER CANA STORY (APPROXIMATELY 16 INCHES) UNDER HED "LINES DRAWN
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FOR NATIONAL BATTLE IN U.S. OVER THE PANAMA CANAL." ARTICLE CARRIED PIX SENATORS HELM AND THURMOND FROM RECENT TV BROADCAST WITH CAPTION "STATING THEIR OPPOSITION ON 'MEET THE PRESS'".

ARTICLE SAW LINEUP AS AMERICANS ON ONE SIDE ASSERTING "WE BUILT IT, WE PAID FOR IT, IT'S OURS," AND OTHER

SIDE AS "CARTER ALLIES WHO FEAR THAT FAILURE TO RATIFY THE TWO PROPOSED TREATIES WILL SPARK VIOLENCE THAT COULD THREATEN THE WATERWAY AND IRREPARABLY DAMAGE U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA." ARTICLE LISTED JOHN MURPHY, CARROLL HUBBARD, STROM THURMOND, JESSIE HELSM, RONALD REAGAN, AMONG "THE THIRTY-SEVEN SENATORS ON RECORD AGAINST GIVING UP U.S. SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL," ALTHOUGH "THERE HAVE SINCE BEEN CHANGES IN THE SENATE." ARTICLE SAID "ZONIANS, AS THE 3,500 AMERICANS WORKING THERE ARE CALLED, STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO," AND QUOTED SENATOR THURMOND THAT "PRESSURE AGAINST A U.S. HANDOVER WAS STRONG IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT A RECENT POLL SHOWED 78 PERCENT (OF AMERICANS) FAVORED RETAINING CONTROL OF THE CANAL."

3. BROADCAST MEDIA PLAYED ROUTINE WIJE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF SIGNING. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT PRESS COVERAGE TO DATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0860
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770990/aaaacyfw.tel
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1364427
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: PANAMA CANAL
TAGS: PBOR, EWWT, US, PN
To: USIA
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